

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 020754Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9177

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SEOUL 2178

EXDIS

JOINT EMBASSY/ CINCUNC MESSAGE

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF, CINCPAC, JCS, CINCUNC AS IMMEDIATE

MIL ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PFOR KS KN

SUBJECT: INSPECTION OF NORTH KOREAN TUNNEL

REF: STATE 73333 B STATE 071658

REPEATED BELOW IS RE-TRANSMITTAL CINCUNC 290615Z MAR 75, REQUESTED PARA 5, REF A, WHICH WAS SENT TO BUT APPARENTLY DID NOT REACH ALL ADDRESSEES. THIS MESSAGE COMPRISES JOINT EMBASS/CINCUNC RESPONSE TO REF B. TERM "REFTEL"USED BELOW REFERS TO STATE 071658.

QUOTE 1. EMBASSY/CINCUNC BELIEVE ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO TUNNEL VISIT SUGGESTED PARA 3 REFTEL, I.E. MIXING NEWSMEN WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, NOT PRACTICABLE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES. MOFA INVITATIONS FOR VISIT HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO AND ACCEPTED BY CHIEFS OF MISSION IN SEOUL AND WE SEE NO WAY TO STRETCH DEFINITION OF THOSE ALLOWED INTO DMZ ON BASIS NOTIFICATION ONLY TO INCLUDE THESE DIPLOMATS. VISIT BY MISSION CHIEFS IS CERTAIN TO BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND NORTH WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY DETECT AND
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PLAY UP ANY ATTEMPT AT SUBTERFUGE.

2. IN VIEW ABOVE, WE ARE PROCEEDING ALONG COURSE OUTLINED PARA 2 REFTEL. AFTER CHARGE AND CINCUNC INFORM THEIR ROKG COUNTERPARTS, UNCMAC SENIOR MEMBER WILL PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO KPA/CPV THROUGH JOINT DUTY OFFICER AT 1200 HOURS SUNDAY 30 MARCH. QUOTE. THIS MEYTSAGE IS TO INFORM YOUR SIDE THAT MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN SEOUL TO INCLUDE THOSE REPRESENTING NON-ALIGNED NATIONS NOT TO EXCEED A TOTAL OF 30, WILL ENTER OUR PORTION OF THE DMZ BETWEEN MDL MARKERS 0536 AND 0701, FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR, ON 2 AND 3 APRIL 1975 TO EXAMINE YOUR RECENTLY DISCOVERED ILLEGAL TUNNEL. SINCE THESE DISTINGUISHED PERSONNEL ARE ALL UNARMED NON-COMBATANTS AND THUS WILL POSE NO MILITARY THREAT WHATSOEVER, WE ASSUME THAT YOUR SIDE WILL POSE NO OBJECTION TO THEIR BRIEF PRESENCE IN THE AREA. ALL VISITORS WILL WEAR ARMBANDS AND WILL BE ESCORTED BY OUR DMZ POLICE. END QUOTE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO NNSC COMMENT (PARA 4 REFTEL), ARMISTICE AGREEMENT DOES NOT PROVIDE NNSC AUTHORITY TO OPERATE IN OR ENTER THE DMZ OUTSIDE THE JOINT SECURITY AREA. THEY CAN BE INVITED TO DO SO (THERE IS PRECEDENT FOR SUCH INVITATIONS); HOWEVER, EVEN IF NNSC ACCEPTED, CONCURRENCE OF MAC WOULD BE REQUIRED. HISTORICALLY, KPA HAS NONCONCURRED. UNILATERAL ACCEPTANCE BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS (I.E., SWISS OR SWEDES) IS CONSIDERED UNLIKELY IN VIEW OF REACTIONS TO PREVIOUS INVITATIONS. NONETHELESS, IN ORDER TO GO ON RECORD AS BEING WILLING TO OPEN TUNNEL TO INVESTIGATION BY NEUTRAL BODY, INTEND TO EXTEND INVITATION TO NNSC. END QUOTE.
ERICSON

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NNN

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